

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim rejections 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 6-14, 16-17, 19-21, 23 and 26-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Seager (US Patent No. 5,235,561) (hereinafter Seager) in view of Granberg (U.S. 2003/0112225 A1) (hereinafter Granberg) and Iwata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,535,749 B1) (hereinafter Iwata). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent Claim 1 recites (emphasis added):

“A handheld data processing device comprising:
a display/processor module comprising a display and a processor;
a first keypad slider comprising a keypad and a first transparent window;
slidably coupled to said display/processor module; and,
a second keypad slider comprising a keypad and a second transparent window, slidably coupled to said display/processor module, and wherein said first keypad slider and said second keypad slider substantially cover said display of said display/processor module and permit viewing a substantial portion of said display through said first transparent window and said second transparent window when they are in a closed position.”

Accordingly Claim 1 recites a handheld data processing device comprising a keypad sliders that slide relative to the display/processor. Moreover, the keypad sliders that cover the display in a closed position permit viewing a substantial portion of the display through their transparent windows.

Seager discloses that the main body members include telephone control buttons and dialing buttons. (See Seager, col. 2, lines 12-15). Seager discloses that the two main body members may be separated from one another to form the final, elongated, substantially straight arrangement. (See Seager, col. 2, lines 32-35 and Figures 3 and 4). Accordingly, Seager discloses that the two main body members, with control buttons and dialing buttons, which move and are separable relative to one another whereas the limitation of the claimed invention recite keypad sliders that slide relative to the display/processor.

The rejection admits that Seager does not teach a transparent window in the sliding covers. The rejection relies on Iwata in order to overcome this failure. Iwata discloses a slide cover that completely covers the input display unit and a small display screen that fits the small display seen from the cut-off part or alternatively a slide cover partly transparent instead of a cut-off. (See Iwata, col. 32 line 63 to col. 33 line 5 and Figures 47, 51 and 52). As such, Iwata does not disclose the claimed limitation where keypad sliders permit viewing a substantial portion of the display when transparent windows are in closed position, as claimed. In contrast, Iwata discloses viewing a small portion of the display through a cut-off section or a partly transparent cover.

The Applicants respectfully assert that Granberg does not remedy the failures of Seager and Iwata as discussed above. Therefore, Seager alone, or in combination with Iwata and Granberg, does not teach the recited limitations of

independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 is not rendered obvious under 35 USC 103(a). Claims 5-16 depend from independent Claim 1 and are each patentable over the cited combination at least for the same reasons that Claim 1 is patentable.

Moreover, with regard to Claims 5 and 15, the rejection admits that Seager, Granberg and Iwata do not teach a display orientation controller, as claimed. The rejection relies on McIntyre to overcome this failure. McIntyre, however, discloses that Figures 2A-2C illustrate one case in which the key arrangements are the same in each layout and Figures 3A-3C illustrate another approach to define a plurality of different numerical keypad layouts. (See McIntyre, col. 3, lines 19-28). Accordingly, McIntyre discloses cases where the key arrangements are the same in each layout, whereas the limitation of the present invention recites a display orientation controller, detecting the orientation of the display and adjusting the display accordingly.

With regards to Claim 6, the rejection admits that Seager, Granberg and Iwata do not teach how a keypad slider would be optically coupled to a display. The rejection relies on Watanabe to overcome this failure. Watanabe discloses that the movable body and the lower casing main body unit are connected to each other through an infrared ray. (See Watanabe, col. 5, lines 44-46). Watanabe, however, does not disclose that keypad slider is electrically coupled to the display/processor module by a flexible ribbon connector, as claimed.

As such, allowance of Claims 1 and 5-16 is earnestly solicited.

Independent Claims 17, 19, 21 and 23 are similar in scope to independent Claim 1 and are each patentable, under 35 USC 103(a), over the cited combination at least for the same reasons that Claim 1 is patentable. Claim 20 depend from Claim 17 and Claims 26-35 depend from independent Claim 23 and are each patentable, under 35 USC 103(a), at least for the same reasons that Claims 17 and 23 are patentable. As such, allowance of Claims 17, 19-21, 23 and 26-35 is earnestly solicited.

For the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103.

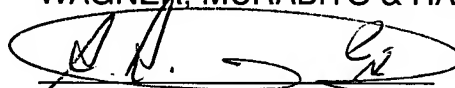
CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed remarks, reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested. Based on the arguments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 5-17, 19-21, 23, and 26-35 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, allowance of Claims 1, 5-17, 19-21, 23 and 26-35 is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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